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#### INFORMATICSECRETPORT

DATE DISTR.

13 September 1948

COUNTRY SUBJECT

DE GAULLE's Plans to Acquire Power

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France

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

- General DE GAULLE, while still playing a waiting game, insists that he will come to power through constitutional means.
- 2. In an interview with one of the sources, SOUSTELLE confirms the fact that the General is making plans only for the legal assumption of power. SOUSTELLE explained that "time is on our side, though it works toward a disaster for the economic and financial state of France".
- 3. RPF leaders believe that general elections would mean a landslide for them, and are therefore loath to start anything until it is apparent that legal means are not leading to power.
- The rank and file and also the minor bosses and officers, of the RPF "Groupes de Protection" are anxious to start demonstrations and trouble, but are being held back by the leaders.
- If DE GAULLE does not reach power legally, the rank and file of the Groupes de Protection will either force a fight, or the organization will slowly fold up. If they fight, it is believed, General DE GAULLE would probably not disclaim the GP's, but would manage to explain their. action. It is further believed that Groupes de Protection action to bring about DE GAULLE's return could be effective, particularly if undertaken in response to Communist provocation. Source estimates Groupes de Protection membership for the Seine and Seine-et-Oise Departments at twelve thousand members.
- 6. With regard to pre-election activities, source maports that the RPF is planning a nationwide propaganda campaign, starting on 14 September, which will be financed by a stamp sale. It expects to sell five million stamps at fifty francs each. SOUSTELLE states that the only planned preelection demonstration is General DE GAULLE's speaking tour through France. With regard to the financing of an electoral campaign, SOUSTELLE says.
  "We will have sufficient funds. It will be easier for us to obtain funds today than during the 1947 elections because we have more members. "
- 7. The RPF has no plans with respect to the Council of the Republic elections,

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and none can be made as they are dependent on cantonal elections which may yet be held this fall. Comment: Councillors of the Republic are elected by indirect vote in which cantonal and municipal electors participate.)

8. According to SOUSTELLE, the Communists will not attempt to seize power by force. He believes that should they attempt a coup they would be opposed effectively by other parties, the public, police and army. He thinks, though, that they might rather attempt to re-enter the Government in a coalition called "Democratic Union". To do this, he says, they might attempt a maneuver calling for the support of Edouard FERMIOT. By doing so, the Communists believe, according to SOUSTELLE, they might participate in a Radical Socialist Government. In the event of the formation of such a government, the Communists would not demand cabinet posts for their prominent leaders, but would settle for the inclusion of such men as Pierre COT, Able PIERRE and Dreyfus SCHMID.